

The Omaha Bee

Published every morning, except Sunday, the only morning daily.

TERMS BY MAIL—
Two Years, \$10.00; Three Months, \$3.00;
Six Months, \$5.00; One Month, \$1.00.

THE WEEKLY BEE, published every Wednesday.

TERMS POST PAID—
One Year, \$2.00; Three Months, \$1.00;
Six Months, \$1.50; One Month, \$0.50.

CORRESPONDENCE—All Communications relating to News and Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor of this paper.

BUSINESS LETTERS—All Business Letters and Remittances should be addressed to THE OMAHA PUBLISHING COMPANY, Omaha, Nebraska, and be made payable to the order of the Company.

OMAHA PUBLISHING CO., Prop'rs. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

EARLY spring rains are causing our farmers to whistle cheerfully through-out the state.

The sudden death of Jesse James probably saved two Nebraska banks from being robbed last week.

A CLUB thrown anywhere in Douglas or Lancaster counties would knock down a half a dozen candidates for congress.

THERE is a general impression that the Chinese must go but how to keep them from first coming is what troubles the Pacific coast.

OMAHA paving awaits the swing will of Governor Nance and the directions of the U. P. attorneys as to whether an extra session will be called.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS may be an iceberg, but he warmed the hearts of the Boston bunion men who managed to worm \$17,500 out of him by a shrewd gambling contrivance.

It will now be in order for The Republican to print a few "unanimous expressions of the state press" on the late election in Omaha, and the overthrow of the Union Pacific citizens' movement.

SENATOR VAN WYCK is spending the Easter holidays in Nebraska. The senator's speech on congressional commissions has received unusually warm commendations from journals of all parties throughout the country.

WHEN Des Moines imports her potatoes directly from Scotland there is room for the belief that a number of Iowa legislators could be profitably spared from the state capital and put into the garden patch.

CHROMOS of the fifty women in Nebraska who voted at the late elections for members of various school boards ought to be prepared for campaign documents by the committee of the woman suffragists. Nothing is more certain than that Nebraska ladies do not want to vote and would not if they could.

OMAHA's boom in real estate may be carried to an extreme. If the high prices of property prevent large transfers we may expect to hear the Herald and Republican explaining that the diminished real estate sales are caused by the late labor troubles.

THAT polyglottic humbug, Rev. Joseph Cook, has been making a tour and delivering lectures in India. It is interesting to note that since his departure from Calcutta a new journal called the "Anti-Christian," has been started in that city. Mr. Cook, with his meaningless discourses, is an antidote for any three foreign missionary societies.

NATIONAL banks especially and citizens generally will be interested in a decision rendered last week by the federal supreme court regarding the recovery of taxes collected illegally. The court holds that a tax collected under a law and upon a method since declared invalid and void cannot be recovered unless explicit protest was made at the time of payment based on the precise objection now raised. The court based its decision upon the general principle that the benefit of the doubt is always to be allowed to a state authority in the exercise of its sovereign right of taxation.

EVERY now and then the supreme court of the United States gets down to business and gives us an opinion of real value. Its latest effort thoroughly disposes of the troublesome question as to what does not constitute an impenetrable man. A man in taking out a life insurance policy stated in the application that he was "of temperate habits and had always been so." After his death the company in which he was insured contested the payment of the policy because the man was found to have had an attack of delirium tremens before the date of his insurance. The court decided that the answer was not sufficient to vitiate the policy, holding that delirium tremens may result from a single instance of over-indulgence in liquor and that it is possible for a man who had suffered from that disease to truthfully describe himself as always having been temperate.

IRIE CANAL.

Both houses of the New York legislature having passed the proposed amendments to the state constitution, by which the canal will hereafter be free from tolls, the people of the Empire state will be called upon in the November elections to ratify the action of the legislature by a popular vote. Every portion of the west, no less than New York state itself, is interested in an affirmative vote on the proposition. The Erie canal has for years partaken of the character of a national highway. Millions of tons of merchandise, valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, has annually passed through its banks and locks from the lakes to the seaboard. Before the introduction of railroads it was the sole outlet for the produce of the then developed west and since the era of railroads it has provided the greatest check to the extortionate demands of the monopolies. For eight months of the year a cheap and constant competitor for traffic not requiring speed in delivery. Its close at the end of the season has always been the signal for an immediate advance in eastbound freights by the trunk lines.

Decreased cost in railroad maintenance, increasing competition on the part of rival lines, and diminished tariffs, have taken away from the Erie canal many of the advantages which up to a few years ago it possessed over the railways as a competitor for freights. In 1880 its traffic was greater than ever before, but last year it fell away to such an extent that it became evident that measures must be taken either to make it free of tolls or to operate it at a constantly increasing loss to the state. The proposition to remove all tolls from the canal was introduced into the legislature of New York, and at once met the hostility of the monopolies. The lobby at once recognized that the removal of the canal tolls meant constant low rates on the railroads, and they fought the bill with all their weapons in both assembly and senate. The anti-monopoly league did excellent service on the other side. Every member of the legislature elected on anti-monopoly pledges cast his vote for free canals, and the measure passed. It was brought out in the debates on the question that fully 50,000 citizens of New York are engaged in commerce on the canal, earning annually not less than \$25,000,000, and that the tax necessary to maintain free waterways would be scarcely one-fifth of a mill a year on each dollar of assessed valuation.

When the amendments are passed, as they doubtless will be at the coming election, the great canal will be as much of a national waterway as the lakes, and with the construction of the Hennepin canal, the Mississippi and the Atlantic ocean will be joined by a bond over which the monopolies cannot exercise control.

NEBRASKA needs greatly a law against the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine, lardine and other varieties of bogus butter. A good deal of this stuff is already on sale in our city, and is daily dealt out to the poorer classes for the genuine article. Whether the stuff is healthy, as claimed, is not the question, although some experiments made in St. Louis would throw considerable doubts on that subject. According to the reports of a private detective who has been investigating the manufacture of butter sold in that city, a good deal of the butter consumed in St. Louis is made from the carcasses of dead animals picked up on the streets which are cut up, the fat separated by a chemical process, the oleomargarine extracted, colored, packed and sent down the river. There it is marked "Creamery Butter," and shipped back to St. Louis dealers. Missouri has a stringent law against the manufacture or sale of the stuff, and a number of arrests will be the next thing in order. If such adulterations were sold as adulterations, the case would not be so bad, for people could choose between high prices for the genuine article and a lower price for the imitation. As matters now stand, they are deliberately availed of the substitution of the one for the other, and the dealers reap the enormous profits resulting from the fraud. Obtaining money under false pretenses is crime, and it ought to be treated as such in whatever form it is perpetrated.

Rosewater received a terrible black eye at West Point last week. With great pomp and bluster he attempted to tackle Valentine in his immediate home, but his olfactory glands emitted a mouse and he crawled out through the back door. He didn't form an alliance there. The farmers saw in him too plainly the political "green" that he is.—Norfolk Journal.

Mr. Rosewater didn't receive a black eye, he didn't attempt to tackle Valentine, he didn't crawl out through the back door, the farmers didn't see in him a political greaser, but a gentleman who has labored long and earnestly with voice and pen in their interests. With these few correctives and the addition that Mr. Rosewater spoke to a large, appreciative and enthusiastic audience here and was the means of organizing six Alliance articles will pass.—West Point Progress.

Mr. Clarence Selah, editor of the Norfolk Journal, and his brother-in-law, S. R. Bartlett, editor of the West Point Republican, are only trying to

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HOUSES AND LOTS!

For Sale By
BEMIS,
FIFTEENTH AND DOUGLAS STS.,

No. 157—Large Five Room and Corner Lot near 22nd and Webster streets, 10 rooms, stable and splendid order. A bargain at \$8,000.
No. 158—House 2 rooms, full lot on Pierce near 20th street, \$1,600.
No. 159—House 2 rooms, full lot on Douglas near 20th street, \$2,000.
No. 160—House 3 rooms, 2 closets, etc., half lot on 21st near Grace street, \$800.
No. 161—One and one-half story brick house on 18th street on Douglas near 12th street, \$1,200.
No. 162—House 2 rooms, well, water, stable, etc., full lot near Pierce and 18th street, \$800.
No. 163—One and one-half story house six rooms and well, half lot on Convent street near St.